



# Committee on Homeland Security **Democrats**

## **Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member**

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### **CONGRESSMAN THOMPSON ON FIRST RESPONDER FUNDING**

**April 14, 2005, Washington, DC** — Today the House Committee on Homeland Security held a hearing on grant reform, to address risk based funding for first responders.

Earlier this week, Congressman Chris Cox (R-CA), Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, along with Congressman Bennie Thompson (D-MS), Ranking Member of the committee introduced H.R. 1544, the “Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Act of 2005.” This bill would improve the method of how funding for first responders is disbursed to states and their local levels. The bill also ensures that firefighters, police, and paramedics in every state in America have a minimum level of preparedness.

Congressman Thompson stated, **“The first responder legislation will develop a system that finally considers risk in all segments of America regardless if they are urban, suburban, or rural. Our current system of distributing funding to state and local governments does not consider risk in rural America in any way. I hope to hear from both panels about risk in rural America and how best to ensure that these factors are included when assessing risk.”**

**“We must ensure that our first responders are adequately trained, equipped, and staffed to prevent, prepare for, and respond to any potential terrorist attack. We also must ensure that the capabilities that we are building with homeland security funding are transferable to both the everyday hazards that first responders face,”** said Thompson.

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